

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, lines 11-14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to an exemplary embodiment, the timing means includes a capacitor, switching means, and means for controlling the switching means allowing the capacitor to be charged for a charging time, then discharged, the discharge causing the element to act on the primer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, lines 1-4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to improve the operating flexibility of the device, the timing means may include means for programming the timing interval; the means can be entirely or partially integrated into the priming device. The timing means may include, for example, code wheels or a microcomputer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, lines 22 - page 4, lines 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 depicts a simplified general diagram of the device according to the invention;

Figure 2 shows a diagram of the principal programming means;

Figure 3 depicts another exemplary embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4 shows a diagram of the external programming means according to another exemplary embodiment of the invention; ~~and~~

Figure 5 shows a particular embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 6 shows an exemplary embodiment of a circuit closing means according to this invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4, lines 13-16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this embodiment, the circuit closing means 20 may include, for example, a mechanical bolt 21, having two positions A and C, which is connected to a U-shaped key 22 placed in a constriction on the exterior of the housing 23, rotation of which allows the bolt 21 to be placed in the desired position. Figure 6 shows an exemplary embodiment of a circuit closing means, such as, for example, a U-shaped key 22 and mechanical bolt 21.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 7, lines 3-7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The external programming device 100 may also include an assembly including an electrical power supply 110, a microcontroller 140, a display 145, two programming switches 146, 147, and a run/stop switch 112, and the transfer means including phototransistors 148, 149 associated with phototransistors 48, 49 arranged in the housing 23.